

What should a Farmer be?

A FARMER SHOULD BE INDUSTRIOUS.—In no department of life, without industry, can any thing valuable or important be achieved. There is such a thing as an idle farmer, "true it is, and a pity 'tis 'tis true;" but an idle, successful farmer, is something the world has not yet seen. No where is persevering industry more indispensable than on the farm, and no where is well directed labor better rewarded. When we say the farmer should be industrious, we do not mean he should be a slave. There is, among some farmers, perhaps a majority at the present time, a feverish anxiety to become rich, a disposition to go ahead, which renders rest impossible, and hardly allows time to eat or sleep—such men are subject to a task-master of the most imperious character, and one from which they should make no delay in freeing themselves. The farmer can have, and he who manages his affairs well, will always have, his hours of relaxation—hours to spend with his friends, and hours to devote to the improvement of his mind. The way to ensure this, is always to be beforehand with the labor of the farm, and never allow himself to be crowded.—More work should never be laid out than is compatible with this rule, and the work that is required to be done to-day should never be deferred till to-morrow. The difference in the case with which labor is performed, when done in the right time, or when we are driven to it by urgent necessity, is so great, that attention to this point alone, would, in performing a given amount of labor, make a most material addition to the farmer's hours of rest and improvement.

A FARMER SHOULD BE ECONOMICAL.—Let the farmer labor as hard as he may; let him deny his soul and body every required good; let him abridge his hours of sleep, and toil from "morn till dewy eve," without rest, or relaxation; it will amount to but little, unless his affairs are in other respects managed with economy. By economy, we do not mean that closeness or littleness—stinginess if you please, which some are pleased to call economy, but which is intally connected with meanness, and is one of the most effectual preventatives of all improvement, and the surest precursor of utter degradation that can be found in a man, and of all other things, is most out of place in a farmer. The great secret of economy, is knowing what is useful and necessary, and what not; of knowing when to expend and when to withhold expenses; in keeping our out-goes clearly within our income, and never purchasing what we can ourselves produce, or which a corresponding amount of our own labour will not procure; and in having every thing in doors and out in its proper place, nothing wasted or destroyed, but a general supervising care directed to every thing connected with our business at all seasons of the year. It is miserable economy to undertake to labor without the proper tools; to undertake to see how cheaply we can summer or winter our animals; or to see with how little knowledge and intelligence, or the means of obtaining either, we can contrive to plod along through life.

A FARMER SHOULD BE INTELLIGENT.—It is an old and true maxim, that "the ignorant of the day excuseth no man." It is, therefore, of any topic necessary to a proper management of his business, or to his proper standing and influence in the community, he should be well pleased by the farmer, who is able to do so, possessing to a certain degree, the means of knowledge within the reach of a farmer. Knowledge less than this, is not only a hindrance to accumulation in the hands of any individual, but a proof of great stupidity, and the first should be entirely banished from the farmer's mind. The farmer should be able to read, and to understand the principles of agriculture, and to be able to apply them to his own practice.

connection with sound morals, is its surest preservative. Schools, books, newspapers, and journals of all kinds, have a wide circulation, and at a rate that places them in the hands of all who choose to think and investigate. Error cannot escape under the guise or plea of antiquity; and the stake and the pillory are not required to combat it in a land where reason is free to expose its absurdities, or plead the cause of truth. By this general diffusion of the means of knowledge no class has been more benefitted than the farmer, and none can have a deeper interest in its continued increase; and none should more freely and fully avail themselves of the means the laws have so liberally placed within their reach.

A FARMER SHOULD BE MORAL.—It has been said that "an undevout astronomer is mad," and an immoral, profligate farmer is an equally decisive instance, of mental aberration. The owner of the soil; the producer and the possessor of the main part of the country's wealth; its defence in war, and its conservator in peace, the farmer has every reason to uphold a system not only right in itself but productive of prosperity and permanence, and frown down and repudiate every thing that has a contrary tendency. There is no surer index to the general happiness of a people, and stability and excellence of their institutions, than the tone of morals that exists among them. If the standard is high, private right is respected, the law is paramount, and property is safe; if the standard is low, power makes right, force is law, subordination prevails, persons and property are insecure, the temples of justice become the fountains of bribery and corruption, prosperity passes away, and society resolves into its original elements. There is always in every country a mass of persons, idle and profligate, who herd together in cities, and who, having nothing to lose, are always ready for every innovation, or every disturbance that threatens convulsion and overturn, as in the general scramble they may obtain plunder and power. The farmers have always been found the firmest supporters of order and law, and if they have ever been found arrayed against either, it has been because ignorance fitted them to become tools of the unprincipled and the designing.—Albany Cultivator.

From an English Work by A. Walker. Cattle.

The best cattle have the face rather short; the muzzle small; the horns fine; the neck light, particularly where it joins the head; the chest wide, deep and capacious, the tail broad and flat towards the top, but thin towards the lower part, which it will always be when the animal is small boned; the lower part of the thigh small; the legs short, straight, clean and fine boned, tho' not so fine as to indicate delicacy of constitution; the flesh rich and mellow to the feel; the skin of a rich and silky appearance, the countenance calm and placid, denoting the evenness of temper essential to quick feeding, and a disposition to get fat.

Every breed of animals which has thro' a few generations (two or three is sufficient) been bred, requires similar feeding; and the offspring of such animals require and can digest more food than others, who have lived upon it.

All growing animals, including mankind, should be sufficiently well fed to preserve health and strength, but never to be stimulated by excess of food. The children of parents who have through many generations well fed, would perish if given more than that which would be sufficient for an Irish or Highland Scotch peasant's child.

The chief qualities sought for in cattle, are the tendency to fatten on little food, and the tendency to fatten on rich milk. The latter is to be considered chiefly by the

capacity of the chest. Animals of all species, says Mr. Knight, all other qualities being equal, are, I think, capable of labor and privation, and capable of fattening nearly in proportion as their chests are efficacious, but the habits of ancestry will operate very powerfully.

It is the width and depth of frame, says Mr. Berry, which confers weight, and not the mere circumstance of great height. While equally great if not greater weights can be obtained with shorter legged animals, they are, independent of other recommendations, generally found to possess better constitutions and greater propensity to fatten.

Mr. Knight says, the constitutional disposition to form fat, is certainly hostile to the disposition to give milk. Cows which give little milk often present large udders, which contain much solid matter; and, to inexperienced eyes, a two years old Hereford cow would give a promise of much milk, where very little would be given. A narrow forehead, and a long face nearly of the same width from end to end, as in the Alderney cow, certainly indicates in me disposition to give milk than the contrary form which I have pointed out as indicative of a disposition to fatten.

Fat animals are more generally those of the north where the cold diminishes sensibility. Fat indeed, appears to be means which nature very extensively employs to lower sensibility, by interposition between the skin and central parts of the nervous system. Fat animals, accordingly have not only less sensibility and irritability of the skin, but of the organs of sense generally. Thinner animals, on the contrary, are more generally those of the south, and have more acute sensibility and exquisite sensation.

Cows which give much milk have the power of eating and digesting much food, and they require, whilst they give much milk, a very abundant and good pasture. The milk of cows which give less milk, and present greater disposition to become fat, is generally less nutritious, and will fatten a calf less. The influence of the feeling is very considerable. I have observed that whenever a young Hereford cow disliked being milked by the dairy maid, she soon ceased to give milk; and I do not doubt that in all cases, if the calves were twice every day permitted to suck after the dairy maid had finished her labor, the cows would longer continue to give milk, and in larger quantity.

If this led only to distinction of these two kinds as to milking, namely—that of fatness and thinness and that of smaller and larger organs of sense, and greater or less sensibility, it would still be valuable, as showing, either at a later or an earlier period, what we may expect in this important particular. But perhaps its utility may extend still further, and enable us to improve the race.

It may form a basis for our determining whether, on endeavoring to improve a breed, fatteners may most easily become milkers, to some extent; or milkers, may, to a similar extent, become fatteners; and what are the circumstances which would most favor such partial interchange, if not absolute improvement! Indeed, from these principles, I would conclude, that an animal fattening in the north, where a more general temperature would render fat less necessary, would increase sensibility, and would cherish the secretion of milk so intimately connected with that excitement of the re-productive functions which warmer climates produce.

As these two desirable qualities are both dependent upon one system, and as they are opposed to each other, (for excess of one secretion is always more or less at the cost of the other,) they will be most easily obtained by being distinctly sought for, and the animal of diminished sensibility will most easily fatten, while the animal of increased sensibility will most readily yield milk.